

5

CLAIMS

What is CLAIMED is:

1. A shot shell having first and second ends and a length, comprising:
a compressible portion situated at said first end of said shot shell;

whereby, upon loading said shot shell into a magazine of a firearm, said
10 compressible portion compresses so as to decrease the length of said shot
shell, thereby increasing the magazine capacity of said firearm, thereby
providing a compressed shot shell.

2. The shot shell of Claim 1, whereby upon removing loading said
compressed shot shell from the magazine of the firearm, said compressible
15 portion un-compresses so as to increase the length of said shot shell, so as
to prevent jamming of said firearm.

3. The shot shell of Claim 2, wherein said shot shell has a load end
wherein a load is situated, and wherein said compressible portion is
removably adhered to said load end of said shot shell.

20 4. The shot shell of Claim 3, wherein said compressible portion is

5 ejected from said firearm with said load when said shot shell is fired from said firearm.

6. The shot shell of Claim 4, wherein said compressible portion comprises a spring.

10 6. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said spring is crimped to said shell.

7. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said shot shell further comprises a shot cover, and wherein spring is engaged to said shot cover.

8. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said shot shell further comprises a wad, and wherein said spring is engaged to said wad.

15 9. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said spring is a helical spring.

10. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said spring is an air spring.

11. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said spring is a foam spring.

12. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said spring is formed of a polymer.

20 13. The shot shell of Claim 5, wherein said spring if formed of a plurality of folds from a material having a memory bias so that it is compressible when longitudinal bias is applied thereto, but un-compresses to a predetermined

length upon the cessation of longitudinal bias.

14. The shot shell of Claim 2, wherein said shot shell has a load end wherein a load is situated, and wherein said compressible portion is emanates from said load end of said shot shell.

15. The shot shell of Claim 14, wherein said compressible portion has an inner diameter through which passes said load upon firing of said shot shell.

16. The shot shell of Claim 15, wherein said compressible portion comprises a spring.

17. The shot shell of Claim 16, wherein said spring is formed of a polymer.

18. The shot shell of Claim 17, wherein said spring if formed of a plurality of folds from a material having a memory bias so that it is compressible when longitudinal bias is applied thereto, but un-compresses to a predetermined length upon the cessation of longitudinal bias.

19. The shot shell of Claim 16, wherein said spring is a helical spring.

20. The method of increasing the capacity of a firearm having a magazine, comprising the steps of:

5 a. providing a shot shell having a length and a first end having a compressible portion;

 b. loading said shot shell in said magazine;

 c. compressing said compressible portion of said shot shell so as to decrease the length of said shot shell, providing a compressed shell.

10 21. The method of claim 20, wherein after step "c." there is further provided the additional step "d." of repeating steps a.-c. until said magazine is full.

 22. The method of claim 21 , wherein after step "d." there is further provided the additional step "e." of removing said compressed shell from said
15 magazine, uncompressing said compressed shell to form an un-compressed shell of greater length than said compressed shell, and loading said un-compressed shell into the firing chamber of said firearm, providing a loaded shell.

 23. The method of claim 22, wherein after step "e." there is further
20 provided the additional step "f." of firing said loaded shell so as to eject said compressed portion through the barrel of said firearm.

 24. The method of claim 22, wherein after step "e." there is further

- 5 provided the additional step "f." of firing said loaded shell such that the load of said shell passes through the inner diameter of said compressed portion, providing a fired shell, thereby maintaining said compressed portion with said fired shell.